

1210.

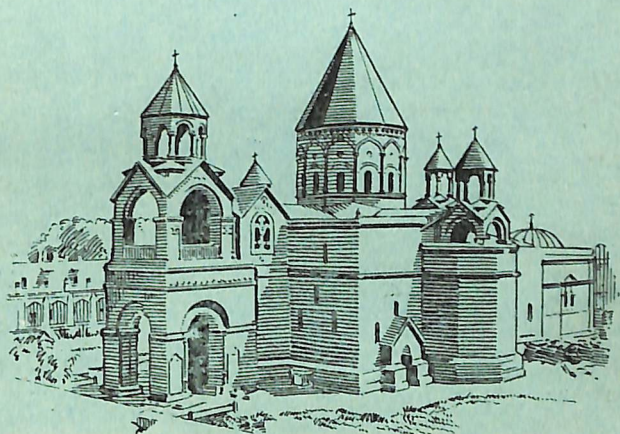
ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

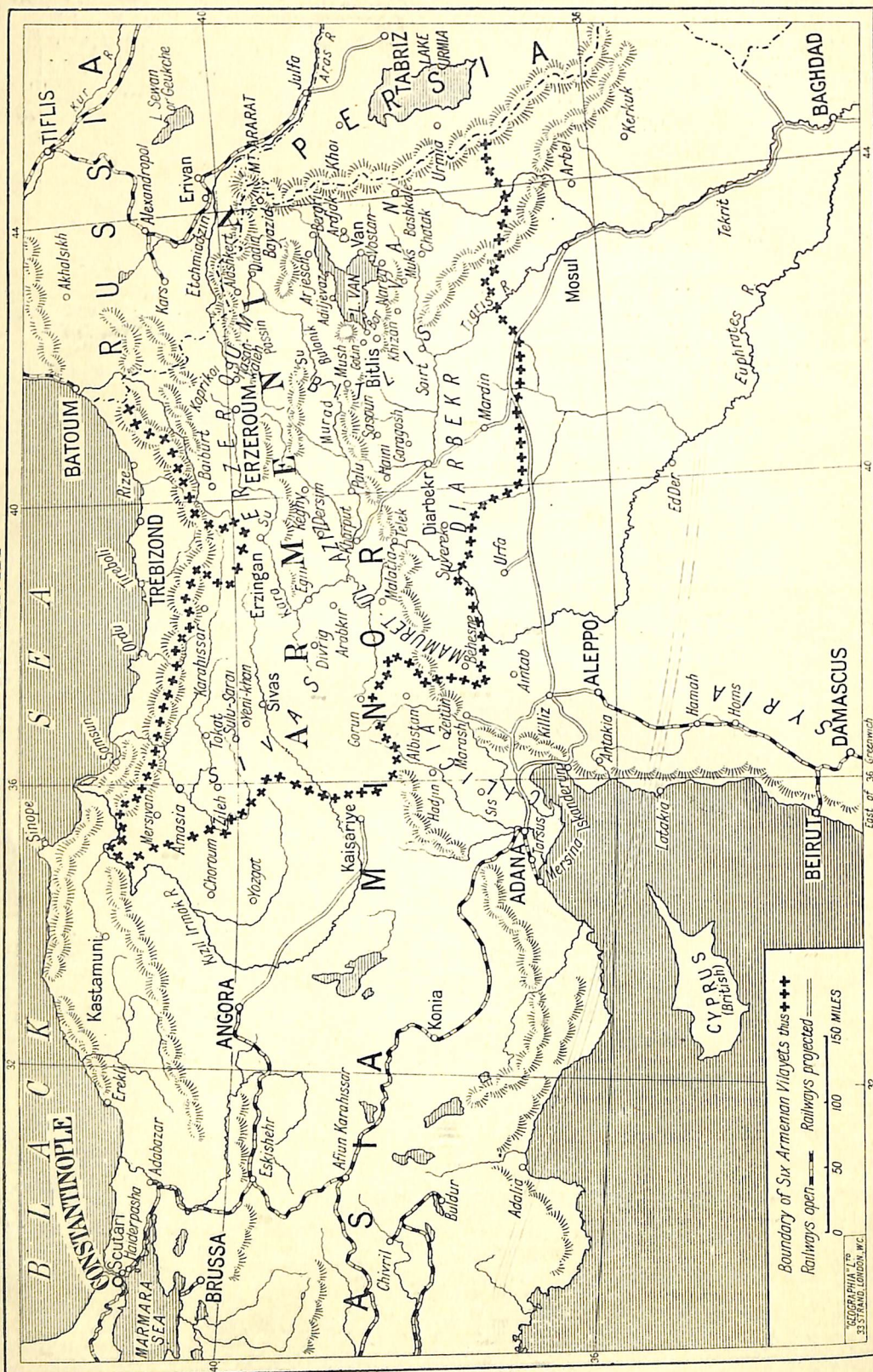
Vol. II. No. 18. London : DEC., 1914.

Price 6d.

Annual Subscription 6 Shillings.



All communications affecting this periodical should be addressed to the Editor, "Ararat," The Armenian United Association of London, 44, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W.



ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

Vol. II. No. 18. London : DEC., 1914. Price 6d.
Annual Subscription 6 Shillings.

CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| 1. Current Notes | 183 |
| 2. The "Alien Enemy" Question | 189 |
| 3. Armenia and the War of Liberation | 191 |
| 4. Dashnaksuthiun—Its Past and Present, by A. S. SAFRASTIAN | 196 |
| 5. (i) Simon Zavarian (ii) Nikol Hovhannessian | 201 |
| 6. Armenian Red Cross Work | 205 |
| 7. Armenian Volunteer Force in the Caucasus | 208 |
| 8. A Recent Searchlight on Turkish Rule in Armenia | 212 |
| 9. Roll of Honour | 215 |
| 10. Announcement | 217 |

Literary Section.

| | |
|--|-----|
| 11. Armenia : Her People and History, by A. S. SAFRASTIAN | 218 |
| 12. Editorial Notes | 223 |
| 13. Advertisements | 224 |

Current Notes.

With the rigours of winter settling over all the battlefields in Europe and Asia Minor, the progress made by the Allied Forces during the last month has been slow, but it has nevertheless been sure. On the western battlefields of France and Belgium, the enemy has not only been held in check, but has lost some ground. In the eastern theatre of war, Russian strategy and weight of numbers may be trusted in the end to overcome the persistent and mighty attacks of the combined German and Austro-Hungarian forces. On the sea, the British victory off the Falkland Islands and the destruction of the Emden were decisive factors in ridding the oceans of what remained of the German menace to the trade of the world. In the air, too, the Allies have scored some notable successes by their daring raids into German territory. Our concern, however, in these pages is to chronicle the progress of events farther East, in so far as they affect Russia, Turkey and Armenia.

Turkey's entry into the war led immediately to the annexation of Cyprus by England. A still greater blow to Turkish prestige came later by the declaration of a British Protectorate over Egypt, the removal of the Khedive from a position he had abused, and the appointment of a Sultan of Egypt. This was a stroke of policy which reflects the highest credit on British statesmanship, as it will rivet the attention of the Moslem world on a Sultan more within their reach, and with a greater right to the Caliphate; besides, the security of the tenure of whose authority will be amply guaranteed by a Power, within whose dominions religious freedom has ample scope, and which already safeguards the welfare of the largest mass of Mohammedans dwelling on the face of the earth.

The above are undoubtedly heavy blows struck at Ottoman sovereignty in the Near East; but other vital blows have also been struck within the last month. A most serious blow, not only to Turkey but also to the paramount German influence on which the Turks are relying, has been the occupation of Basra by the British Forces operating from India. Basra was destined to be the terminus of the Bagdad Railway, and its seizure, together with the control over the Shatt-el-Arab, where the British have well established themselves, is another instance of the miscarriage of German calculations, which were based on the hope that the Shatt-el-Arab would be completely closed to British commerce, and the British position in the northern part of the Persian Gulf rendered an extremely precarious one. But German intrigues, while relying on the Turkish forces on the spot, failed to take

count of the Arab, who was constantly in revolt against Turkish authority in this region. The Arabs will now set about their affairs in a growing confidence as to the security of their position and trade, under the protection of a British force from India, which deserves the credit of having acted promptly and decisively.

For the rest, the Turkish Navy is the poorer by the sinking of a battleship in the Dardanelles through the daring of a British submarine. Desultory bombardments have taken place on the coasts of the Black Sea, but the Russian fleet seems well able to hold its own in this region, and the Goeben has evidently not sufficiently recovered from the mauling she received to establish her superiority over the Russian war vessels. We hear periodical reports through Athens that the bombardment of the Dardanelles forts is being continued with vigour, and our own impression is that nothing will be permitted to leak out from this direction until the combined British and French fleets have accomplished their task by clearing the Dardanelles and appearing in force before Constantinople.

With regard to operations on the Armenian frontier, there is no doubt that the severity of the climate at this time of the year is hampering operations. At the same time there is progress of a marked nature. The main objective in this direction is Erzeroum, and the advance forces of the Turks have been driven back by the Russians in precipitate retreat. The wintry conditions are, however, so severe, that the Russian troops have been given a rest. Erzeroum is defended by new heavy German guns, and German aeroplanes have been requisitioned; but despite these defensive measures and the presence of a very large Turkish force, the civilian Turks are winding up their affairs and abandoning the city; while among the Christian population a reign of terror prevails, the prisons are full of Armenians and Greeks, domiciliary searches and executions without trial for supposed espionage and sympathy for Russia are of daily occurrence—in fact it is a reign of “frightfulness” engineered by Turks and Germans in combination, and we know what that means. We can, however, wait in patience for the inevitable end.

In the Van region and on the Persian frontiers matters are progressing quite satisfactorily for the Russians. After a determined resistance, the Turks have fallen back with serious losses towards the Sarai-Assourlie line near the Persian frontier. In another article in this issue we have given an account of the doings of the Armenian Volunteer columns, which are acting in concert with the Russian forces.

The war has also its tragi-comic incidents. Here are a few. In answer to a telegram from the Kaiser, the Sultan has sent the following reply:—

I have much pleasure to inform your Majesty that my brave army completely defeated the Russian army after a sanguinary fight. I have full confidence that with the help of the Almighty this victory will soon be followed by greater victories of our three united armies on three continents and on all seas.

Then we hear that, owing to a defective knowledge of the English language, the report that two *canons* were attached to the British St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem attracted Turkish attention, and Turkish officers, refusing to accept assurances that *canons* had nothing to do with the artillery *cannons* of warfare, tore up the floor of the edifice and destroyed part of the altar.

Here is another, and we had no idea that there were suffragettes among Turkish women. The ladies of Erzeroum have been going in for anti-war demonstrations. They threw stones and rioted for several hours, and when threatened by the guards, rent their garments and paraded the streets almost in a state of nudity, thus compelling the guards to retire in obedience to the Islamic law. The ladies ultimately forced the Vali to despatch a telegram to Constantinople protesting against the war.

About a hundred well-known Armenian ladies of Moscow held a meeting on November 14th and formed a Committee to raise funds for

- (i) helping the Armenian Volunteer Force;
- (ii) maintaining in the field those who had already crossed the frontier into Turkish Armenia; attending the Armenian wounded and refugees from the Turkish provinces; and sending relief to those homes that had been devastated by the Turks and Kurds.

The Committee, besides raising funds, is making appeals for warm clothing and provisions; and has organised Ladies' Working Guilds to make garments, bandages, etc.

Similar Committees have been formed throughout the Armenian colonies in Russia, and lately also in the United States.

Twelve thousand Armenian refugees from the Turkish provinces have been crowding into Sarikamysch, the Russian frontier town. These people are in a starving condition and have to bear in the open the rigours of heavy frost. The Armenians in Russia are doing their

best to feed and clothe them and to mitigate their sufferings, while the authorities, fearing an epidemic, are taking steps to disperse them over wider areas. The Central Bureau at Tiflis is calling for urgent help for these refugees.

Last month we announced that the Armenians of Paris, through their Arch-priest, had sent a telegram to the Czar of Russia, expressing their gratitude and joy that the Russian Armies were about to avenge the lives of their martyred countrymen and deliver their country from the Turkish yoke. To this the Czar has sent the following gracious reply :—

His Majesty the Emperor, my august master, who always feels acutely at heart the interests of the oppressed Armenians, has been genuinely touched by the prayers uttered by you and the Armenian colony of Paris. Under His Majesty's orders I am charged to convey this message to you.

ISVOLSKY,

Bordeaux, Nov. 14, 1914.

Russian Ambassador.

In the Armenian church in the Rue Jean-Goujon in Paris, there was celebrated a *Te Deum* of thankfulness to the Lord on the triumphant entry of Russian troops into Turkish Armenia. The entire colony was present. After the prayers of thanksgiving had been said, the Arch-priest Kibarian, who officiated, delivered a stirring and eloquent sermon. He conveyed a grateful salutation from the Armenians of France to great Russia, whose legions, assisted by numerous Armenian volunteers, were about to deliver Armenia from the Turkish yoke, as well as to chivalrous France and to noble England, which had joined Russia in coming to the resolve that Turkish tyranny should be finally overthrown—a tyranny under the yoke of which so many nations had groaned, and among these the plight of the Armenian nation had been the most grievous.

At the end of the Mass, prayers were offered for the repose of the souls of the French, Russian, English, Belgian, Japanese, Serbian, Montenegrin and Armenian soldiers who had, in this war of liberation, fallen heroically on the field of honour.

A further suitable act of the Armenians of Paris, and a graceful one, was the homage tendered by them to the King of the Belgians on his fête day. Here is the text of it :—

To Albert I, King of the Belgians.

In the name of Armenia, which has for centuries past been ravaged by the barbarians of the East, the Armenians of Paris tender, on this solemn day, the homage of their deep and affectionate admiration to the great King Albert I, whose name will eternally shine in the constellation of the most perfect heroes of History, and to the noble Belgian nation, which, at the price of most frightful sufferings, borne with marvellous bravery and self-denial, has made itself the epic martyr of the liberties of Europe, the glorious advance-guard in the crusade of Right.

Long live King Albert I ! Long live Belgium, which to-morrow will rise again from her blood-stained ruins, more stately, more beautiful, more glorious than ever !

To indicate the spirit in which Armenians are entering into the struggle for freedom of their fatherland, the following touching epistle from a father of Lori (Transcaucasia) to his son is a fitting example :—

MY DEAR LEVON,—You have decided to join those who have volunteered to defend the cause of our long-suffering brethren across the frontier. I wish you God-speed ; and may the God of Lori and the souls of the great heroes of Dasbir (a shrine) be to you for support and encouragement.

That which to me has for years past been a point of great difficulty, you have now solved by your decision.

In the autumn of 1895, while I was riding to the village of Pambag, I met a group of Armenian fugitives who had escaped from the massacres which had been carried out under the orders of the Great Assassin. I witnessed pathetic scenes : Mothers carrying their children on their backs, all in rags and in a state of starvation, bent with grief and scared by the horrors they had seen. They had lost their beloved ones, who had been mercilessly butchered. I could not bear to hear their accounts of what happened.

Now you are going to rescue your countrymen. Go, my son ! Great deeds require great sacrifices. You are a faithful son of your race, and I will not restrain you. Go ! God bless you and your comrades !

We are indebted to the Armenian papers of the Caucasus for this tribute to the humanity shown by a Russian Cossack towards a Turkish officer. The officer had been taken prisoner in the battle near Kopri-Koi, and on reaching the Russian frontier, he thanked the authorities thus:—"Allow me, Sirs, to express our admiration for the great humanity of your Cossacks. I was wounded and my horse shot while retreating. I asked for assistance from my subalterns, but they fled in a cowardly manner. On the approach of the Cossack, I had no doubt I would be roughly handled, and so prayed to Allah to take my soul. To my surprise I was very kindly treated, the Cossack bandaging my wound and putting me on his horse, and displaying a friendly attitude on the way. I am immensely relieved to know that all the rumours spread by the German officers in our Army as to the barbarity of the Russians are baseless lies."

The Turkish officer then thanked the Cossack and offered him money.

After having successfully accomplished their self-imposed task of reviving the declining British influence both in Bulgaria and Roumania, for which they were almost done to death by a Turkish assassin, the brothers Noel and Charles Buxton, who had sufficiently recovered from their wounds, left Sofia on November 30th for Nish, on their way home. Considerable crowds, including several distinguished persons, assembled at the station, where they were presented with bouquets by the Mayor. A street in Sofia has been named after them, and they have been the recipients of many tokens of popular good will.

Mr. Noel Buxton's interest in Armenia, now that his views as to Russian hegemony in that quarter are about to be realised, will, we trust, now be increased, if that were possible, towards that great day of reckoning when the atlas of the world will emerge with new colourings and altered boundaries. Our countrymen in Manchester, after hearing recently a lecture on Mr. Buxton's travels of last year, have sent the following telegram to Mrs. Noel Buxton, and copies to other members of the family, which brought to them graceful responses:—

At a specially convened General Meeting of the Armenian community of Manchester yesterday at West Didsbury Public Hall, to hear Mr. Aram Raffi in an address in connection with the visit to Armenia of your illustrious husband—Mr. Noel Buxton—and the Rev. Harold Buxton, whom he had the honour of accompanying, a resolution was unanimously passed to convey to Buxton Brothers the Meeting's heartiest thanks for, and appreciation of, the great services rendered and painstaking efforts taken on behalf of long-suffering Armenia and her emancipation.

GREGORY AGOPIAN,

Chairman.

Nov. 23rd, 1914.

The "Alien Enemy" Question.

Last month we drew attention to the seriousness of this question in the British Isles so far as it affected Armenians who were Turkish subjects; and we also pointed out the anomaly and the irony of fate that a nation should be classed here as "alien enemies" who are heart and soul in favour of the cause of the Allies, and who are now shedding their blood on the battlefields to uphold that cause. It was our sincere hope that the representations already made to the British Government would speedily end a state of affairs which was tending to impress on a law-abiding people that their escape from the frying-pan of Turkish persecution had but landed them into the fire of British rigour, which savoured no less of persecution.

We doubt not the British sense of justice, and we fully realise at the same time the points of difficulty that must arise in dealing with this question; but we also feel that the difficulties are not such, when the smallness of the Armenian community here is considered, as to baffle the administrative powers of so great a Government.

We felt sure last month that relief would come in the way we expected, and we hoped it would be speedy in coming; but, alas! the mills of the gods (the British Government) grind slow, and they also grind exceedingly fine. More than a month has elapsed and we have had no response to our representations, and in the meantime cases of dire distress come before us daily, of men thrown out of employment and starving, of the restrictions placed on the movements of men of position and respectability, whose only crime is that they failed to spend in due time a few pounds to obtain their letters of naturalisation. And when we view the aspect of the commercial position of Armenians in the thriving colony of Manchester, we are filled with dismay as to the financial outcome affecting a body who have carried on for the good of this country as well as its own the bulk of the trade with the Levant. The transactions of this colony reach the colossal figure of about four millions sterling annually, and how do we find so useful, industrious and peaceful body treated? They have petitioned the Home Office and the Treasury for relief; the British Banks and mercantile firms of Manchester of standing have similarly sent petitions on their behalf, but they and we still wait for the final decision of the British Government—at the Greek Kalends it may come, or perhaps the termination of the war in the far distant future will solve their position; as they have automatically become "alien enemies," so will they automatically be released from their bondage. In the meantime our worthy fellow-countrymen are struggling the best way they can against fate. Their affairs in some cases are about to be transferred to the Public Trustee; the Banks still refuse to deal with them in connection with Bills of Exchange; and some highly solvent firms are even deprived of their power to draw funds for their personal expenses. And all this in friendly England, with the Armenians fighting heart and soul in its cause!

A step is being taken by the Police authorities, by the formation of Armenian Committees in London and Manchester, which would assist the Police in dealing with individual cases of hardship as they arise; but this course is intended to meet cases which come under the jurisdiction of the Police. The commercial, and necessarily the larger aspect of the question, would still remain untouched. We believe that the Government, by the issue of a new Order in Council, is able to relieve Armenians of many of their serious disabilities; and we cannot but hope that where individuals can be vouched for by responsible Armenians as beyond suspicion—and we believe there is hardly an Armenian who does not harbour the most loyal of sentiments towards the Allied Powers—steps will be taken to clear up a most anomalous position, and avert disaster and ruin overtaking a strong business community such as that of Manchester.

We are much indebted to those English Members of Parliament and friends who have interested themselves to induce a more rational attitude being adopted by the Government, and especially to the British Armenia Committee and its Chairman, Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P. This Committee not long ago passed a Resolution affecting this question, which was proposed by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., and forwarded in due course to the proper authorities. We have been privileged to publish in this journal a copy of this Resolution, which runs as follows:—

That the attention of the Government be again called to the serious, and in some cases disastrous, interference with the Armenians resident in Great Britain, both in their personal movements and in the conduct of their business; that though technically these Armenians, as Turkish subjects, may be regarded as Alien Enemies, they are known—probably without any exception—to be warm friends of this Country; and the heads of the Armenian Community in Great Britain guarantee to furnish the Government with information as to the good faith of Armenians known to them, involving the exclusion of undesirables, if any; that the British Armenia Committee urge the Government to make immediately such mitigations in the administration of the law as will enable such Armenians to conduct their lives and businesses under possible conditions:

That the British Armenia Committee know that such mitigations have been established in France, and invite His Majesty's Government to follow that example, so far as British law permits; and urge these mitigations the more strongly as they have been extended to Poles, Alsations and Greeks, who are enemy subjects resident in this Country.

We would also give our readers the following apt quotation from the *Manchester Guardian* of December 23rd:—

THE ARMENIANS IN ENGLAND.

The Home Office has wisely remitted the more grievous of the enemy alien restrictions in the case of Poles whom the accident of birthplace has made technically German or Austrian subjects, and thus ended the anomaly of ranking some of our warmest well-wishers among our enemies. An even greater anomaly requires to be ended in the case of Armenians. No people have greater cause to detest Turkey and all she stands for than the Armenians. They have been driven into the arms of her foes by decades of extortion, oppression, and massacre; and to them, if to anyone, the victory of the Allies will mean a new era. If proof of their zeal for our cause is needed, it is given by the force of 6,000 Armenian volunteers, supported by subscriptions from Armenians the world over, which is now fighting gallantly for Russia in the snow-clad mountain passes of Asia Minor. Yet the wide test of nationality which was used—necessarily, no doubt, at first—to secure this country from internal danger treats these people as enemy aliens and subjects them to hardships which should properly fall only on those from whom enmity may reasonably be expected. When the steps taken in the case of the Poles, and the fact that Egyptians until the other day were in a similar position, are remembered, we may expect that the restrictions on Armenians will soon be remitted, and that they will receive the friendly recognition which they have already had from France.

Armenia and the War of Liberation.

M. Denys Cochin and M. Archag Tchobanian speak.

In *Le Gaulois* of Paris, of November 6th, M. Denys Cochin, of the French Academy and Deputy for Paris, has unburdened himself of a soul-stirring appeal on behalf of Armenia. M. Denys Cochin has for the past eighteen years—ever since the hideous massacres of Abdul Hamid—been a staunch friend and champion of the Armenian cause, and has brought to bear on it his whole talent and influence, and has defended it with an unwearied devotion. The Armenian nation knows him well, and its past gratitude towards him is further enhanced, if such be possible, for this timely advocacy of his renowned pen. We give below a translation of the article in full:—

ARMENIA.

Hardly do the Turks declare war, when the Russian legions descend the slopes of the Caucasus and drive them before them.

The Turks! There are still some people who imagine that at a word from Yildizkiok the whole world of Islam falls to its knees! These people, under Mahomet II, with the help of huge cannon drawn by forty oxen, which were sold to them by a Venetian renegade,—the earliest conception of the famous mortars of Krupp—demolished the walls of Constantinople. Selim, the grandson of Mahomet II, forced the last Abbaside in Egypt, who was a descendant of the prophet and caliph, to assign to him his rights. But this usurpation of authority has never been recognised by the Islamic world; and throughout India and Arabia, in Egypt, in the Soudan and in Morocco, the Sultan of Constantinople has never been venerated as the Commander of the Faithful.

The blood-stained Abdul Hamid attempted to draw to himself the time-honoured homage which was rendered to the caliph. He was no more successful in deluding himself in this than was William II. The nineteenth century brought itself to a close amidst the cries of indignation from the whole of civilised Europe, with the exception of Germany. Here was in full evidence a sovereign putting to massacre in time of peace, in an organised manner and with full administrative sanction, by the hundred thousand, his own subjects. M. Paul Cambon, our eminent and courageous Ambassador, denounced before France this crime of a nature unheard-of in history. Lord Salisbury proclaimed it in England. Parliaments were moved with emotion. I am the sole survivor, alas! who can bear testimony to-day to the fervent concord which existed between Pressensé, Jaurès, Albert de Mun, and myself.

Armenia, a land with the most ancient of civilisation, a colony of the kings of Babylon, the aim of Rome's ambition, converted to Christianity at its dawn, planted with castles and churches by the crusaders; Armenia, the home of poets on a level with those of Persia, and prolific in heroes, from Mithridates to the Bagratidæ, has been turned into a field of carnage. The groanings which came from Trebizond, from Erzeroum, from Kharput, had their echoes in the hearts of all, except in that of the Emperor of Germany.

It was a different thought that sprang within him. There was something he could do with these mighty fellows who had so disgraced themselves. He would visit them at the very moment when the whole world had turned its back on them; they will take kindly to me, thought he, and the more world-wide the execration, the better will be the chance for us of picking up some profit through so unexpected a mark of deference on our part.

It was this favourable moment that William II seized to pay a visit to Abdul Hamid. But he made a mistake in his calculations. He thought he was going to buy at such a valuation the respect of the

whole of Islam. At Damascus, in 1898, he declared in solemn terms, as Prince de Bulow tells us: "The three hundred millions of Muslims scattered over the face of the earth may be assured that for all time the emperor of Germany will be their friend."

He certainly knew how to gain the friendship of Abdul Hamid. And yet he did not know how to prop up his dismal friend on his blood-bespattered throne. Those others who followed, and who made beautiful promises, repeated once more, at Adana, the crimes of Erzeroum and of Kharput. These have developed not into the friends, but into the humble servants of Germany. Three weeks ago the Italian papers affirmed that eight thousand German instructors had been distributed among the Turkish troops, besides a thousand officers. Liman von Sanders and his staff participate in the deliberations of the Ministers, *assuming the attitude of masters*. As to the navy, though the Goeben and the Breslau have been changed in name to the *Yavous* and the *Medilli*, they have always remained under the control of German crews and commanders.

It was not the Ottoman Empire that declared the recent war. It was Germany. She has pushed before her these be-turbaned and be-fezzed fellows just to receive the blows, in the same way as her regiments at Charleroi drove in front of them the working miners, clothed in their work-a-day smocks and still carrying their lamps in their hands.

On November 3rd, 1896, after denouncing the crimes of Abdul Hamid, I said in the chamber: "Here is a question which concerns European patriotism. . . . It concerns the whole of ancient and civilised Europe to ensure that barbarism should cease to exist in every corner of its territory.

"We have allies," I said (and that was eighteen years ago), "which all the world knows. I have the right to speak, at least, of that unquestionable friendship that has been heralded between us and the Russians. . . . Now is the moment to make our call on it. We could not wish for an opportunity when it might be more happily inaugurated!

"Ah! the friendship of France—it is precious, it is loyal, it is well worthy of the cause which it makes its own. Yes, but the friendship of France also carries with it its responsibilities! It must know how to defend the weak, to take the side of the oppressed, to make genuine sacrifices in the cause of justice and of liberty. Such are the responsibilities which are inseparable from the friendship of France. Announce it in full terms, Sir (*monsieur le ministre*), to our friends!"

To-day, the alliance between Russia and France is sealed with Russian and French blood. I must apologise for having quoted my own words, but if I have not quoted from the rest of the world, I only repeated in parliament what the whole world was saying at the time. Yes, eighteen years after it seems to me that we have at last been understood. The Czar and his people recognise the value of France's

friendship, and recognise too the character of the responsibilities that go with it. When, yesterday, the Czar called on us to join in the defence of Serbia, which came under the menace of the whole German host, when he launched his high-souled appeal to Poland, and when, to-morrow, without a touch of alarm at the foolish insolence of the Turks, he will extend to Armenia, from Trebizond to Adana and Alexandretta, to the Greeks in the islands, and to the Greeks in Smyrna, the same proclamation of deliverance and of liberty, it seems to me that the Czar will then turn to us and say:—"Frenchmen, are you fully satisfied?"

DENYS COCHIN,
of the French Academy,
Deputy for Paris.

The above article was followed by a responsive letter from M. Archag Tchobanian, in the same paper of November 17th, of which the following is a translation:—

ARMENIA AND THE WAR OF LIBERATION.

To Monsieur Denys Cochin, of the French Academy.

DEAR SIR,

Armenians throughout the world will read with the utmost pleasure your eloquent and generous article of some days ago, and I assure you that the gratitude they feel towards you would have been doubled, were it not already infinite. Yes, Russia, whose forces have already crossed the Turkish frontier, has announced to Armenia the glad tidings of her deliverance in the terms of her recent announcement to Poland. This great war of liberation, which will bring in its train the triumph of the cause of nationalities, which has been placed before the world by France, cannot go through its course without also bringing some relief to those nationalities which are still groaning under the Turkish yoke, notably to Armenia, which, the time-consecrated Belgium of the East, has suffered those manifold martyrdoms for remaining faithful to her mission as the advance guard of the free spirit of the West in Asia Minor. And nothing is more touching, nothing more natural, than this act of an eminent Frenchman saluting, in the name of all France, the appearance of the Russian army on the soil of Ottoman Armenia, in the attitude of St. George striking to the ground the dragon of Tyranny.

If Enver Pasha has contributed towards the hastening of the approach of this hour of liberation—and that is what he has in fact done—he will have merited his share in the blessing by that signal service which he, unconsciously, has rendered to civilisation. There are assuredly Liberal Turks, friends of progress, who would have sincerely espoused, had they been in power, the cause of the Triple Entente, instead of making themselves the slaves of Germany; but

such as these are in the minority, and quite unable to press their opinions on the mass of their compatriots; nor does this minority represent the true spirit of the Turkish race, which, throughout its history, has invariably proved itself to be the worshipper of brute force, and has especially laid itself out for destruction, massacre and rapine.

This spirit, as it is always seen displayed in Turkish mobs, is such as to urge them on with an enthusiasm towards the slaughter of thousands of unarmed Christians, Greeks, Bulgarians or Armenians, no sooner their leader gives them the order, though it scarcely exhibits itself to-day in the overthrow of a simple dictator; this spirit was seen to be manifested again yesterday in the crowds that, since the beginning of this war—the noblest and most symbolic of all wars—have gone to offer up prayers in their mosques for the success of the German arms, for the reason that Germany is in their eyes the embodiment of Force, while at the same time they were bellowing their hootings in front of the Embassies of France, Russia and Great Britain, which typified the champions of an Idea altogether incomprehensible to them. This spirit has existed, and has prevailed in the so-called constitutional régime, of which the most typical page was the horrible massacre at Adana, the instigators of which were "liberal" Turkish politicians, who have proved their liberalism by causing to miscarry, by the aid of the most disloyal tactics, reforms of the most elementary and reasonable character which the Triple Entente had proposed to introduce, in the interests of the Empire itself, in Turkish Armenia. It is of this spirit that Enver Pasha stands out to-day as the true incarnation. He merely continues and emphasises the historic track of the Turkish race. The novel quality about him is that he has not united in himself, as most other Turkish politicians have done, the qualities of cunning, duplicity and imposture to that of brutality. In this respect he has shown his remarkable exemption. It was absolutely logical that the Turk should take the side of the Prussian, and Enver Pasha has had the merit of adopting and of proclaiming, without the least ambiguity, this attitude, which is in keeping with the traditions of the race.

Thanks to Enver Pasha, the work of liberation will be complete. On the morrow of this war, as beneficial as it is horrible, the East as well as the West will be delivered from the old nightmare of Despotism, which stifles nationalities, clogs the free development of ethnic culture, and is prejudicial to a harmonious understanding among the various human races. The friends of liberty will have the joy of seeing to-morrow Belgium, which has excited our admiration, ennobled to the measure of her heroism, Alsace and Lorraine restored to France, and Poland brought to life again; they will see Bosnia and Herzegovina, Schleswig-Holstein, Transylvania, the Trent and Trieste restored to their brothers in blood; they will see Syria, Arabia and Armenia delivered from the Turkish yoke, and rejoicing in a new life under the protection of France, England and Russia; they will see the Jewish fatherland reconstructed in Palestine, Kurdistan wrenched

from its primitive and savage existence where the Turks have always kept her, and nurtured into a civilised and national life. Who knows what will befall with regard to Armenia, when the Russian legions will have occupied the country from Erzeroum to Adana? May it not be, perchance, that the noble scheme of the Czarina, Catherine II, will have been brought to fruition?

And just as the downfall of Prussian imperialism will be beneficial to the German people themselves by awakening within them the old idealism rendered illustrious by Kant, Goethe and Beethoven, so the Turkish race will in reality profit by the break-up of its material sway; for, by Constantinople becoming a free town and the various nationalities of the Empire being delivered from the Turkish yoke, the Turkish race itself, ceasing to play the rôle of a tribe, situated within a vast territory and subservient to conquerors, would group itself around centres which are in reality Turkish, such as Broussa and Konia, and develop into what she has never been, a nation.

Pardon me, Dear Sir, for having given free rein to all these musings in a letter, wherein I would, above all, express to you my gratitude for the friendly act which you have performed, in addition to so many others, in the interest of my country. But I know that these musings are as dear to you as they are to myself. I know, too, that we are at a sublime moment when, thanks to the heroism of the nations that venerate the cult of liberty, those most beautiful dreams are about to be realised; and there is no reason whatever to think that the dream of the Armenians, or rather the dream of the entire East which is to be equitably reconstituted, will fail of realisation, so as to enhance by one diamond the more that crown of pure glory which encircles the brow of France, Russia and England, in their struggle for the triumph of Liberty in the world.

A. TCHOBANIAN.

Dashnaksuthiun—Its Past and Present.

Every political party has its origin in certain direct or indirect causes which, in one way or another, create a national want, or lead up to a national ideal, and those congenial spirits, whose souls are impelled to the realisation of such ideals, unite in forming what is known as a political party, to which they devote their activities. The doctrine of causation seems to have operated in a striking manner in the case of the *Dashnaksuthiun*, the militant Armenian political party which, in the course of the last quarter of a century, has played an important part in the life and activities of this persecuted nation.

A POTENT ALLEGORY.

When Archbishop Mkrtich Khrimian, the late Catholicos at Etchmiadzin, returned in 1878 from Berlin, where he had been sent by the Patriarch to lay the grievances of the Armenians before that

notable Congress, he made a striking statement in the cathedral at Constantinople, in the course of a sermon, which, by its original simplicity and its profound significance, thrilled the masses of his people from the highest to the lowest. He said he had been to Berlin to lay before the Congress the claims of the Armenians, armed with a petition—a scrap of paper—which in its nature was fragile and pliable. There in the Council Chamber, and on the green table round which sat the European diplomatists, was a dish placed—the dish of Liberty. Serbians, Bulgarians, Roumanians, and others, who had fought for their liberty, strode into the Congress Chamber armed, as they had been, with their steel swords and their iron “spoons,” and carved out or dipped in and took out from this dish of Liberty all, or very nearly as much, as they needed. When it came to his turn, armed as he was with only his petition, the fragile scrap of paper, as he dipped it into the dish, bent under and gave way, and he was unable to secure for himself any portion of this luscious dish.

THE ALLEGORY SINKS DEEP.

Now Khrimian was the most popular man among Armenians in the nineteenth century, and was genuinely beloved by all. The real meaning of the metaphor he used penetrated into the depths of the nation's soul far and wide; and what people had individually felt, now became the common talk, that liberty could be won only by the sword and by fighting, and that petitions and scraps of paper had hitherto proved futile.

The educated classes took the lesson to heart, and the result of the awakening soon became evident. In the early eighties of the last century, several educational societies were organised to educate the masses of the people in their native land, where enlightenment was most needed. Teachers from Constantinople and the Caucasus were sent to Mush, Van, Erzeroum and other places to rouse the people from their long centuries of torpor, and to instil into them at the same time the tragedy of their daily life under the Turkish yoke. Portukalian, now the editor of an Armenian weekly at Marseilles, Sarian, and other self-denying patriots trained a new generation of young Armenians, who woke up to see their grinding subjection to the Turk in a new light. Russian Armenians, disguised as peasants and merchants, found their way into the villages and taught their compatriots the noble art of self-defence; and secret societies were formed to smuggle arms into Turkish Armenia. The Turks began to be suspicious of this new spirit, and plied the weapon of persecution by giving it a few additional turns of the screw. In 1888-89 the first armed encounter took place between the Armenian “revolutionaries” and Turkish troops near Bashkalé (Van). It was brought about through the forcible abduction of an Armenian girl, named Gulizar, in Mush, by the notorious Kurd, Musa Bey. This and other outrages committed by this man and his like not only shocked the European Ambassadors at Constantinople, but also assisted in quickening the national activity of Armenians.

CAUSE AND EFFECT.

Europe had not been able to compel reforms in Armenia, which were stipulated for by the Treaty of Berlin, and the situation was becoming worse every year. The Armenians in Turkey were being done to death slowly, but surely. There was but one way to prevent extermination—revolt, though from the point of view of geographical and ethnological circumstances, an extended rising hardly seemed a promising venture. Still there was no other way to bring the attention of Europe to bear on Armenia. The Greeks had attained their independence. Bulgaria had unfurled the banner of rebellion and had brought in the intervention of Russia. Why should not Armenians follow the example of Greece and Bulgaria, and so win their freedom?

The periodical massacreing of Christians has been a favourite policy, we might call it a pastime, of the Turks. The Greeks have had their *Chios*; the Bulgarians have had their *Batak*, the horrors of which inspired Mr. Gladstone to start his campaign against Bulgarian atrocities; the Armenians did have their *Sassoun* and the holocaust of 1895-96, and others besides, but they did not free Armenia from the Turkish yoke. And yet did not Khrimian, by his "paper spoon" philosophy, throw a flood of light on the true theory of success? It was this kind of reasoning that served to give the signal for more concrete action. The *Hunchakist* party had already been formed in the eighties and was carrying on its educational and revolutionary work; and in 1890 was formed "La Federation révolutionnaire Arménienne," commonly known as *Dashnaksuthiun*, a word which in Armenian simply means *Federation*.

It seems that the epithet "revolutionary" has caused an immense deal of misunderstanding and prejudice to the cause of this party abroad. In its programme and practice it has always been guided by the paramount preoccupation of securing an improvement in the conditions of Turkish Armenians; of arming them, of guiding them, and teaching both Turkish and Russian Armenians the necessity for self-defence. It has never claimed to harbour designs for the overthrow of the Sultan's throne, or that of any other sovereign, nor for the disintegration of the Turkish Empire, though in 1905 it organised a bomb attempt to destroy the life of Abdul Hamid, the Arch Assassin, an attempt which ended in failure. And in view of the inhuman system of persecution adopted by Turks against Armenians, particularly after 1878, so strong and well-organised a party as the *Dashnaksuthiun* was bound in all the circumstances to arise, even though it did not spontaneously come into being from the blood and ashes of the nation's martyrdom.

THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF THE PARTY.

It would be outside the scope of these notes to give a complete analysis of the party's programme and of its maximum and minimum demands. Suffice it to say for the present that the party is founded on the broad and constructive principles which underlie all modern

radical platforms, with a large margin reserved for efforts in a nationalist spirit, where the circumstances of national life require such a diversion. And considering that Armenia, as a nation, has within the last quarter of a century passed through one of the stormiest and most critical periods of her history, it is no wonder that the party has almost exclusively devoted its energies and resources to the cause of national self-preservation.

In June, 1890, Turkish madness perpetrated a massacre in Erzeroum, when some twenty Armenians were killed and about eighty wounded. The outrage made a deep effect on the compatriots of the victims across the border in Transcaucasia. A strong mounted band was organised under the well-known leader, Sarkis Kukulian, but before they could cross the border to avenge their brethren, the entire band was arrested by the Russian military authorities, and all were exiled to Siberia. This measure adopted by the Russian authorities drove the party underground.

As every political party at its outset, and particularly one that works underground and must needs assume a conspiring character, has its defects and makes its blunders, so the *Dashnaksuthiun* was not singular in this respect. Yet, in view of its patriotic motives, its ranks have swelled year by year by the accession of numbers, and its resources so far as these permitted, have enabled it to organise the defence of Turkish Armenians.

The massacres of 1894-96, carefully organised by Abdul Hamid and his agents in the provinces, and put into execution by the Moslem army and Moslem mobs, paralysed all branches of Armenian life for the time being; and the *Dashnaksuthiun* at this juncture, in August, 1896, wrongly or rightly, and with a view to drawing forcibly the attention of the Powers to the horrors that were being enacted, attempted to seize the premises of the Ottoman Bank in Constantinople. It would be out of place here to pass any judgment on the real merits or demerits of this act, though it was considered in Europe as both misguided and foolish. And when the European Concert, or rather the Triple Entente Powers sadly failed in their efforts to secure reforms for the Armenian provinces, the curtain of the European comedy may be said to have fallen, and Armenians and the *Dashnaksuthiun* were left to look after themselves as best they could.

The horrors of the time naturally induced an extensive exodus of Armenians into foreign countries, and it was this party that made great efforts to dissuade the people from leaving their homes and their native land to settle in Russia and elsewhere. Sums of money were distributed among their massacre-stricken compatriots; and in order to keep up the national spirit among the temporarily down-hearted peasants, bands of *Fedais* were located throughout the Armenian provinces. Nikol Hovhannessian, whose recent death we regret to announce, and Deroyan, with their bands, fought in the streets of Van; Serop, with his company, fought for years in and around Bitlis and Mush, and his bravery struck such terror among Kurds and Turks

that, after nightfall, no Moslem dared to tyrannize over the Armenian countryside. He was given the title of "Pasha," and songs were sung even by Kurdish minstrels over Serop Pasha's brave exploits. Antranig, another of the brave leaders who is now in command of an Armenian Volunteer contingent operating in Armenia with the Russian army, and later, Kevork and their bands became the guardian angels of the defenceless Armenian population in Mush, Sassoun, etc.

THE PARTY'S SPECIFIC ACTS.

The following are some of the specific actions of the Dashnak-suthiun party in the period 1897-1908 :—

(i) In the summer of 1897, 300 well-armed and trained fighters under Nikol (see portrait), Zorian and others, attacked the summer residences of Sherif Bey and Sheikh Hamid Pasha, two Kurdish brigands and agents of Abdul Hamid, and devastated the dens from which they had carried on their depredations, thus avenging in a small measure the massacre of Van. A German traveller, Hans Vischer, who happened to be in the neighbourhood, writing in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, mentioned the tactics of the band as "worthy of Von Moltke."

(ii) After the dastardly massacre of Armenian peasants in the village of Moghunk, near Mush, in 1898, Antranig entrenched himself in the monastery of Surp Arakhelotz and defied the authorities until redress was obtained by the "punishment" of some of the murderers.

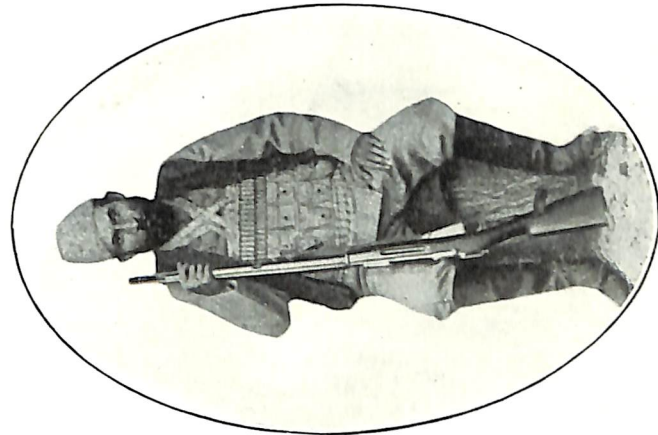
(iii) In 1904, again Antranig with 250 men and assisted by about a thousand Sassoun peasants, rebelled against Abdul Hamid and brought about the intervention of the consuls of the Entente Powers. This handful of men, during two months' fighting against tremendous odds, baffled a force of about 20,000 Turkish regulars, who were followed into the field by hordes of Kurdish desperadoes bent on plunder.

ITS OPERATIONS IN RUSSIA AND PERSIA.

While thus engaged in Turkish Armenia, the party was confronted with a surprise across the frontier. The Russian authorities during 1903-05 attempted to confiscate throughout Russia the property of the Armenian Church. The party encouraged and guided the clergy and the Armenian people to resist such an illegitimate attempt, and after a struggle which lasted three years, its property was restored to the Church. Thanks to the birth of a new spirit in Russia, and to the liberal and progressive attitude of Count Vorontzoff-Daschkoff, a new Viceroy who took the place of Galitzin, the efforts to coerce Armenians have passed into the pages of history, never we hope again to be revived.

But the gravest of dangers in the Caucasus had yet to be met, and for this the greatest determination was necessary.

In consequence of the political chaos prevailing throughout Russia after the Russo-Japanese war, the Tartars and the Moslem rabble in Transcaucasia were let loose on Armenians in Russia itself. At one moment, in 1905-06, the very existence of about a million and



"Duman."

In later years, as a Leader in Persian campaign for Freedom.

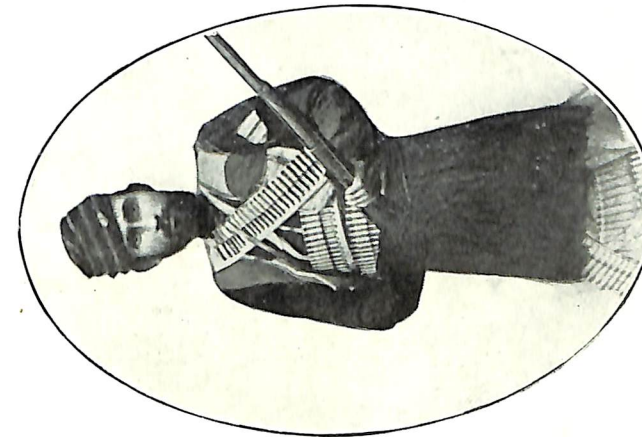
Died, October, 1914.



Simon Zavarian,

one of the Founders of the Dashnak-suthiun Party.

Died, October, 1913.



Nikol Hovhannesian,

commonly known as "Duman."

An active fighter in the Party.

a half of Russian Armenians was at stake. The Dashnaksuthiun, supported by the people, met the Tartars to the tune of twice their number. Horrors beyond description were committed by the latter, which could not fail to provoke retaliation in some measure on the part of the Armenians.

Under the leadership of the party, mounted bands and flying columns were organised to the extent of some 20,000 fighting men to wage a life and death struggle against their Tartar assailants. The Armenians in isolated areas were well defended; attacks on Tiflis, Erivan, etc., were successfully met; and acts of heroism and self-sacrifice were common among Armenians whose names are inscribed on the nation's roll of honour. The brave Hamazasp, who now commands the third Armenian Volunteer Contingent with the Russian army, distinguished himself on that occasion in many fights.

After battling against persecution in Turkey and Russia, the party now turned its attention to Persia, where a constitutional Government was proclaimed in 1907. All its efforts on behalf of a liberal régime in Persia were concentrated in the person of the well-known Yeprem Khan, a shining light of the party, who became the Persian Minister of Police and fought with his handful of Fedais against the forces of reaction until his untimely end in battle. His work was taken up by Keri and other Armenians.

HOW THE PARTY FARED WITH THE YOUNG TURK.

Then came the ill-starred Young Turk revolution in 1908, in the bringing of which to fruition the Dashnaksuthiun took a notable share. The party approached the Young Turk leaders in Europe and offered their full co-operation, which was accepted, and the revolution was effected amid mutual congratulations between Turks and Armenians. With this signal act the party emerged from its underground workings to take its place, as it thought, by the side of the Young Turk for the regeneration of the Empire. But its rejoicings were premature, and before many months had passed came the horrors of the Adana massacre, in which the Government was clearly involved.

In spite of this set-back to its cherished ideals, the party was still willing to work with the Young Turk, and this compact entered into by a patriotic Armenian party with a band of undoubted criminals who were involved in the butchery of some 12,000 Armenians at Adana savoured of a treachery to the Armenian cause. Yet, those who can judge matters with detachment and without bias, might see in this policy a further attempt at bringing the Turks into line, if such a thing could possibly be accomplished. The liberal professions of the Young Turk offered some slight chance of reality, and it was this last straw that the party resolved to clutch at, with the sole view of benefiting the Armenian element by improving the general lot of Turkey. Out of this compact the Armenians derived some good in land disputes, educational efforts, etc., but Turkish duplicity in connection with the shelving of Armenian reforms left no room for

doubt as to the hopelessness of their professions. The final break between the Dashnakists and Young Turks came last August, when they tried to win over the party to act against Russia, and this proposal was flatly refused. Its result was the immediate persecution levelled against the leaders, some of whom were arrested.

The party can now count on an enormous number of followers both in Russia and Turkey; and thanks to Russia's far-seeing and liberal policy towards Armenians, the Dashnakist leaders have been received in the Caucasus with open arms, and, with the support of the Armenian nation and of the Russian authorities, they have been organising the Armenian Volunteer Contingents to fight, for the last time we hope, the struggle for Armenia's freedom side by side with the Russian forces. Another article in this issue deals with those Volunteer Contingents.

OUR PORTRAITS.

The portraits we present to our readers in this issue represent two of the founders of the Dashnakist party.

Simon Zavarian was an intellectual man, a militant rebel, and rebel he remained to the end of his days. Born in 1865 at Lori, in the Caucasus, which also claimed to be the birthplace of Loris-Melikoff, Zavarian received Russian education and threw himself freely into the cosmopolitan movement of the eighties in Russia.

The oppressions suffered by his compatriots aroused in him a new spirit. Just as Jena produced a Fichté, so the persecutions of Armenians made Zavarian a militant guide to his race at a period of storm and stress. With the assistance of Mikaelian, Zorian and others, he founded the Dashnakist party in 1890, and from that period his life story may be said to be the history of his party.

A successful official in the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, and with bright prospects of advancement, he cheerfully resigned the chances of personal comfort and ease and threw in his lot with his suffering compatriots. He first went to Trebizond as a teacher, and organised branches of party and educational unions. He was exiled to Bessarabia, and when liberated, he devoted his full energies to the cause of Turkish Armenia. A straightforward man, with a strong character, he left his mark on whatever he undertook. He spent some years in Europe in the study of agricultural and educational methods in Switzerland and elsewhere, which he subsequently and successfully applied at Mush, one of the most backward centres in Armenia. The writer of this article saw him at Mush in 1911, where he was inspecting the Armenian schools and imparting instruction in scientific agriculture.

Few idealists would have borne the hardships and privations he willingly suffered in the cause of his down-trodden countrymen. He died suddenly in Constantinople last year, and the deep manifestations of grief and reverence at his funeral constituted a just recognition of his unselfish services to his nation. Those who knew him well, will ever cherish his memory.

Nikol Hovhannessian, commonly known as "Duman," was a veteran fighter. He took part, or rather led in at least twenty battles against the Turks, Tartars, Persians and other enemies of his race. He was always in the forefront of the battle, and received his share of wounds. There was a brotherly feeling between him and his comrades in arms, whom he fascinated by his simplicity and his unsophisticated patriotism.

On two occasions he was arrested by the Russian authorities and exiled to Siberia; and he died last September at the mineral springs in the Caucasus, where he had gone to recruit his health which had been shattered during his enforced Siberian sojourn; and this took place, unfortunately, on the eve of the national war of liberation, regarding which he had cherished many anticipations, and dreamt many dreams.

His ideals are at this moment permeating his old and young brothers in arms, who are steadily following in his footsteps for the freedom which is the just due of Turkish Armenia.

A. S. SAFRASTIAN.

Armenian Red Cross Work.

Help for Wounded and Refugees.

A Drawing-room Meeting took place at Mrs. Henry Bohn's house, 17, Holland Villas Road, Kensington, on Friday afternoon, Dec. 18th. The Right Honble. G. W. E. Russell was in the chair, and there was a large attendance of those interested in the welfare of Armenia, and also the leading members of the Armenian colony in London.

Mr. H. A. Godson Bohn said he had been asked by Miss Robinson, the Hon. Secretary of the Armenian Society, to read the following messages:—

Countess Benckendorff (wife of the Russian Ambassador) encloses £5, which she would like spent on the Refugees, and learns with interest a Fund is to be established for assisting Armenian soldiers.

Lord Bryce writes: All the friends of Armenia rejoice that you and your friends should be taking action for the help of the sufferers. He regrets, as he is living in the country, it will be impossible for him to have the pleasure of coming to the meeting.

Lady Henry Somerset has the deepest sympathy with the project, and gladly lends her name.

Bishop Welldon writes: By all means use my name if it can be any good.

Rt. Hon. G. W. E. Russell will gladly become a Vice-President.

Sir Anderson Critchett, Bart., M.D., C.V.O., is glad if his name can be of any use.

Lady Thomas (wife of General Sir Godfrey Thomas) is glad to assist in any way she can.

Principal Whyte, D.D. (Edinburgh), and Mrs. Whyte gladly give their names.

Sir William Bull, M.P., is glad to become a Vice-President.

Aneurin Williams, M.P., Chairman of the British Armenia Committee, encloses £5, wishing the Fund every success and much regretting being unable to be present.

Col. Gregory, V.D., President of the Armenian United Association sends £5 and feels highly honoured at being made a Vice-President, and congratulates the Committee on the progress made.

Annan Bryce, M.P., is much flattered at being asked to be a Vice-President. He gladly agrees and wishes Fund every success.

Philip Morrell, M.P., sends a donation, with best wishes for the success of the Fund.

Rev. Stephen Gladstone sends a donation and is glad to become a Vice-President.

Rev. H. Westall will be very pleased to do all that he can for this Fund.

Mrs. Madeleine Cole, Hon. Secretary, Women's Armenian Relief Fund, gladly becomes a Vice-President.

H. C. Gardiner, Esq., Editor of *Daily News*, will do his best to help the appeal forward.

Mrs. Henry Caird offers to secure anæsthetics for the Fund. There were also many other letters too numerous to read.

The Rt. Hon. Chairman then addressed the meeting. Looking at the Agenda before him he noticed his host had wisely put down as the next item, "Chairman's remarks," and this exactly explained what he intended it to be, and it was not to be a speech. Dealing with all the events leading up to and after those terrible massacres of 1895, one could not help thinking that England had not done all that she could have done by any means. There was, however, a great champion of Armenia's cause, and that was the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone—(Hear, hear)—and he headed a noble band of Englishmen who desired to see right vindicated. There then followed the short period of the Earl of Rosebery's administration, and that gentleman all of a sudden altered his opinion on the Armenian Question, as he did on a number of other questions. The last dying words of Gladstone were: "Those poor Armenians," and these three words summed up their case.

Speaking as one of those who took a great interest in securing Bulgaria's freedom from the Turks, he thought now was the great opportunity for Armenia to assert her rights. This was said to be the war which would ultimately protect the rights of small nations, and the principle of races governing themselves was to be recognised and established. There were several small and brave little nations

struggling for their very existence, and one of these was Armenia, and the time was near at hand when the tyrant and the bully would have to go. (Hear, hear.) But the object that afternoon was to further this great purpose in a gentler way, and it was for the purpose of devising means for assisting the wounded Armenians, who were fighting as volunteers on the side of the Russians. Another great object of the Fund to be inaugurated was the assisting of the many Armenians, men, women and children rendered homeless by the war, and these, he understood, were to be assisted with clothes and food. The call was a very necessary and a very urgent one, and one that he felt would go down deep into the hearts of the many ladies he saw before him that afternoon, and he appealed to them all, men, women and children, to support this Fund liberally. (Applause.)

Mr. Safrastian then spoke of the needs of the Volunteers. These were advancing into Armenia, supported by columns of Russian regulars, the majority of whom were Armenians. All the regulars had the use of the Russian Red Cross, but the Armenians were without such aid. The audience must remember this part of Armenia lay very high, the cold was intense and the snow three feet deep. There were many serious cases of frost-bite alone, and although their first appeal would be for funds, there was a great demand for warm woollen clothing. There were 6,000 volunteers in the field, 5,000 in the United States ready to sail, and shortly there would be altogether some 20,000 to 25,000 volunteers. There were at present five Armenian ladies acting as nurses, but they had only a fortnight's training; there were no doctors and absolutely no appliances of any sort. He would himself be leaving soon for the scene of operations, and he would be glad to take any warm clothing out with him, and would ensure its proper distribution. (Hear, hear.)

Professor G. Hagopian made some very interesting remarks about the past British attitude towards Armenia, and expressed the hope that he might even see English volunteers assisting. (Hear, hear.)

Lieut.-Colonel Gregory, V.D., in thanking the Chairman for coming that afternoon, said that probably the greater number of his audience had not seen an Armenian before. Well, he was one himself, and that gave him the opportunity of saying at once that Armenians were not Turks, nor were they very terrible in appearance. (Laughter.) Armenia had her scholars and writers who had made their name in the history of the world. Their womenfolk did not wear the yashmak nor did they live in harems, but were more akin to their British sisters in thought and feeling. In the name of the audience he would like to say how beholden they all were that afternoon to the Right Hon. gentleman for assisting in this great cause. (Applause.)

The Chairman, in briefly acknowledging Col. Gregory's kind remarks, noticed that the time was slipping along, and he would make this the opportunity of at once thanking Mrs. Bohn for so hospitably entertaining them. (Applause.)

Mr. H. A. Godson Bohn said his mother had asked him to say how glad she was to be able to do anything for so good a cause. It was only five days before the Meeting that the cards of invitation were sent out, and he only knew that he had secured a speaker even later than this. In asking all present to accept such a short notice, he would like them all to know that this was due to the urgent appeal of Armenians in Russia, mainly at Moscow but also at Petrograd, for immediate assistance for their wounded volunteers. The Committee of The Armenian Society thought as a start they would confine themselves to only sending out new clothes, especially as these had to go such a distance. They had at once communicated with the British Consuls at Petrograd and Moscow, and directly they heard in reply they would be able to make arrangements as to consignments of funds and articles. As far as they could gather, the appeal was especially for all sorts of men's woollen clothes, such as gloves, mufflers, waist-coats, cardigans, stockings and warm underclothing. He had much pleasure in announcing that £40 had already been received in these few days. (Applause.)

After tea, musical items, recitations and songs brought a most successful gathering to a close.

We are asked by the Hon. Secretary of the Armenian Society, Miss Robinson, to say that she will be very glad to receive donations of money and gifts of any of the above articles, which should be as good as, if not new. Men's football stockings and ordinary warm socks will be especially useful for the men refugees and are greatly in demand. For the volunteers, stockings and under-garments should be natural shade and not dyed. For the present, all articles should be addressed to her at 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, W.

Since the above was in print, intimation has been received from Lord Bryce, Lady Frederick Cavendish, President of "Friends of Armenia," and Mrs. Hickson, Hon. Secretary of "Friends of Armenia," permitting their names to be associated with the Armenian Red Cross Work. A general hope is also expressed among those interested that Lord Bryce will assume the position of President of the Armenian Red Cross Work.

Armenian Volunteer Force in the Caucasus.

The declaration of war between Russia and Turkey fell like a bombshell throughout the Armenian community in Russia and in the Caucasus. It was at once proclaimed to be a war of liberation for Turkish Armenia; for, unlike the previous Russian wars with Turkey, when England and France either morally or actively supported the

latter, now there was a lasting alliance sealed with the blood of these three Great Powers, and it implied a clear mandate for Russia to emancipate Armenians from the galling Turkish yoke. If encouragement were needed by Armenians, it is born in the firm conviction that from this last ordeal of bloodshed and strife their country will emerge into freedom and security of life; and no higher incentive to strengthen this conviction and to rouse enthusiasm could be found than in the lofty principle which has been enunciated by the Allied Powers, that the rights of small nationalities are to be upheld. Fully conscious, therefore, of the enormous consequences that may be the outcome of this war in the future political status of Armenia, the nation scattered throughout the world are making unparalleled efforts, whether by the supply of funds, by the raising of contingents, or by the equally necessary act of creating unity of thought and harmony in council, to bring their share to bear on the achievement of the common end.

THE FORCE AND ITS LEADERS.

War became almost inevitable between Turkey and Russia, when the former began to mobilise her troops in August on the Russian Trans-Caucasian frontier. While all this was going on, the Armenian leaders were not inactive in preparing for any eventuality which might arise to endanger the lives of Armenians in the Turkish provinces. The *Dashnaksuthiun* party were foremost in these preparations, without raising the smallest suspicion, or giving the least provocation to the Turkish authorities. Where it meant a life and death struggle, and the resuscitation of Armenia after a political coma of five centuries, the leaders of this party, ever ready to uphold the national cause, were permitted by the Viceroy of the Caucasus to repair to Tiflis and there to put themselves at the head of the Armenian Volunteer Force. Among these, the name of Antranig is best known and is one to conjure with as a leading "revolutionary"; then again there is the energetic and stalwart Hamazasp, whom many of our readers might remember a little over a year ago on his way through London, when his eager and active interest in his country's cause marked him out as one who would do great things if he were ever called upon to act. Such are the leaders, among others, whose services the Russian Viceroy has been quick to acquire, and no wonder when we consider the experience and fame these men had already gained for themselves during the extended period 1896-1908, in their past encounters with Turkish troops, with the Kurds in the Turkish provinces, and against Tartars in the Caucasus itself.

When the Russian Army of the Caucasus began to invade Turkish Armenia on October 30th last, the Armenian Volunteer bands began to move simultaneously. As far as it can be ascertained, the Russian army is advancing towards the Euphrates valley in three columns: I, the right wing of the main army is moving towards Erzeroum, having already seized Kopri-koi, and pushed on towards their objective; II, the left wing, starting from Erivan, has captured Bayazid and is

now advancing southwards towards Van ; and III, the middle column, formed purely of Armenian Volunteers, officered by the Armenian leaders, is advancing in three directions. It is thus supported on each flank by portions of the regular Russian army. It may not be out of place to state here that the regular Russian army of the Caucasus, operating in this region, is composed of a very large number of Armenians, serving both in the ranks and among the officers—we might almost say that the majority of the soldiers are Armenians.

ADVANCE OF THE COLUMNS.

Our interest, however, in this article is centred on the Armenian Volunteer Force under its own leaders, which has been fully equipped and armed by Armenians, and is acting in conjunction and in co-operation with the regular Russian forces. At the moment of writing our information warrants us in stating that over 5,000 such volunteers had already been led to the front and had done good work, while a considerable number were preparing to follow.

A strong column, both mounted and foot, started from X, under the command of Antranig, crossed the frontier, and after some skirmishes with the Turkish frontier guards and Kurdish Hamidihs, dispersed these and captured Arzap, Mossun, and the monastery of Surp Ohan (Turkish Utch-Killissé). These successes have, by the way, been attributed in official reports to the Russian army, as Armenian contingents, though separately officered, are naturally part of the great Russian fighting machine. The advance of this column into Turkish Armenia was hailed with joy by the Armenian residents. It was accompanied by Armenian priests, who carried crosses and rifles at the same time, and the peasants welcomed them with open arms and with tears in their eyes. These latter have special reason for their joy, as the Turks and Kurds, before taking to flight, stripped them of all they had, while their winter provisions had already been requisitioned by the authorities in anticipation of the outbreak of war.

Another Armenian column, composed mostly of mounted men, is advancing towards Lake Van in a southerly direction. They have had sharp encounters with Turks at Kizil-Kaya and Kavre-Shami, in the plain of Abagha. In the latter village the Armenian column was surrounded by Kurdish reinforcements, which, however, were eventually repelled, and the column retreated to a stronger position. In this fight no Armenians were reported as killed, though there were a few wounded, and among these was the Armenian commander, Dero, whose wound is said to be severe.

The third column, under the command of the well-known Hamazasp, was formally reviewed by Russian officers and then proceeded in the direction of Z—.

WAR NEWS FROM THE FRONT.

The following translations of telegrams from the special correspondents of the *Horizon*, the daily Tiflis organ of the *Dashnaksuthiun*,

will give us an idea of the doings and the progress of the Armenian Volunteer Force :—

Kagziman (Russian frontier), Nov. 14.—The column under Hamazasp, including about 200 Turkish Armenians who had joined it, marched out for reconnoitring purposes. They were reviewed here by the Russian General, and a solemn religious service was performed at the church before their departure. Hamazasp and his men received an enthusiastic ovation from the populace, who showered on them flags and flowers.

Igdir (Russian frontier), Nov. 16.—During the whole of the 14th a battle raged between our second column and Turco-Kurdish regulars, about six times their number. Our men retired after sunset in good order, Dero, the commander, being severely wounded. The Russian military authorities are doing all they can to attend to our wounded and those frost-bitten.

Sarigamish (Russian frontier), Nov. 16.—Armenian peasants inhabiting the districts where the war is being carried on are flying towards Russia, panic-stricken and robbed of all their belongings. Moslems, with their oxen, carts and donkeys, are on their way to Erzeroum, ill-treating the Christians as they go. Great distress prevails among our refugees, who are without shelter and food and in rags under a sharp frost. Until relief is organised, hundreds must die from exposure and privation.

Sarigamish, Nov. 17.—The Russian generals and the populace witnessed to-day the Armenian Volunteer division on parade, the discipline, and the smart and striking appearance of the men calling forth continuous cheers. The Russian governor of the town congratulated the Armenians on their active co-operation in the great work of liberating their brethren. Towards the evening the volunteer cavalry corps left in the direction of A—.

Sarigamish, Nov. 19.—About 900 refugee families reached here to-day from Turkish Armenia, having been robbed of all they possessed. They are eagerly looking forward to the time when the Russian and Armenian forces will occupy their towns and enable them to return home.

Igdir, Nov. 19.—On the morning of the 18th our third column under Hamazasp captured Toprak-kalé after a whole day's fighting. The falling snow and blizzards make any advance very difficult. Warm clothing, doctors and medicines are urgently needed by the force. Please draw attention to these imperative needs,

TURKISH ARMENIANS IN RUSSIA—A CONTRAST.

As we have stated above, a preliminary force of over 5,000 Armenian Volunteers has already started out to co-operate with the regular Russian armies of invasion, and this advance force is armed, equipped, mounted and fed by the *Dashnaksuthiun*, a well organised political party which is, of course, being supported by the nation as a whole. Furthermore, a stream of Armenian volunteers is pouring

into Tiflis, the capital of the Caucasus, from all parts and of all classes, such as bankers, traders, merchants, university students, peasants, labourers, etc., with a view to enlistment. We cannot say at the moment what steps are being taken to utilise these men towards the fulfilment of their patriotic desires. We can rely on Russian sympathy and support, and if the training and equipment of these willing fighters are forthwith undertaken, we may count on a force of 50,000 Armenian Volunteers being put into the field by next spring for operations in Turkish Armenia. It should be borne in mind, as a contrast to the treatment of Turkish Armenians in England, that Russia does not look upon them as "alien enemies"—it is an amazing anomaly that any of the Allied Powers should do so. The British authorities, however, cannot escape from the cult of red-tape, at the shrine of which are being immolated many Armenians who, having fled from Turkish massacre and persecution, are, after a peaceful sojourn in England for many years, being thrown out of work for being "alien enemies." Such is the irony of fate!

A Recent Searchlight on Turkish Rule in Armenia.

(NOTE.—This article was written in October before war was declared against Turkey. We publish it as originally written, with such explanatory notes as the changed circumstances warrant.—*Ed. Ararat.*)

A sketch of the situation in Turkish Armenia at a time when European civilization and politics are at their lowest ebb in their moral effect upon Turkey, could not be attempted better than by making the generalization that the term "Protection of the Law," as understood in any part of the world under European rule, conveys a deceptive idea when applied to Turkey in regard to her Christian subjects in particular.

Even under normal conditions, the lot of Armenians, whether in their native land or in Asia Minor, is not an enviable one. Murders of unarmed people by Turks and Kurds are of almost daily occurrence. Murders happen even in the most civilised countries, will at once answer the Turkish politician, simulating the knowledge that murders or any kind of offence always happen in civilised countries as well, but he carefully overlooks the difference that the authorities in the latter do not connive at criminals when the victims happen not to belong to the ruling race, as is the general rule and custom in Turkey.

To illustrate our contention, the following few cases, which may be taken as characteristic in every month of the year, occurred in the course of last August:—

(1) Two Armenians, named Khatcho and Murad, of the village Jorader (on the Turco-Persian frontier), were killed by one Sherif Bey, for refusing to harbour his Kurdish brigands under their roof. Also, the wife and daughter of one Avedissian were dragged about and insulted by one Ahmed Aga, a notorious rascal, because they were unable to entertain the robber with chicken and rice.

The Turkish authorities at Bashkalé (vilayet of Van), where these outrages have taken place, seem to be there, not for enforcing the law and protecting the people, but merely to levy unending taxes for themselves and for their ambitious pashas at Constantinople. Repeated appeals to the authorities by the relatives of the victims for protection against the Kurdish depredations above referred to, have received no attention at all. (1)

(2) At Avantz, on Lake Van, during an Armenian's wedding-feast, an unprovoked attack was made by Turkish Gendarmes upon one of the guests, who carried a small revolver in his belt. In order to prevent the incident being magnified into an "event," the Armenian surrendered his revolver to the authorities; but the latter were not going to be satisfied with so tame an ending, so they besieged the "rebellious" village of the guest, and carried him off at once to prison. On the other hand, these same authorities overlook the every-day fact that Moslems, armed to the teeth, go parading before the government Konak and throughout the country.

(3) In Mamerdank (vilayet of Bitlis) on the 25th August, one Djemal Aga sold to one Hakim Aga, the family consisting of eight persons of Apraham Avoyan for about £6 10s.

This "sale" which is tantamount to a system of slavery, enables Hakim Aga to levy tribute upon the family and force all members of it to labour of every kind. The Turkish Authorities, who did not protect the Armenian and his family against this high-handed act of brigandage, swooped down upon Avoyan and robbed him of the remainder of his crops for tithes and other taxes. After the harvest this man returned home actually empty-handed, with winter and starvation staring his family in the face.

(4) At Teghut, an Armenian village in the district of Bulanik (vilayet of Bitlis), one Bedros was killed in a cowardly manner, while asleep, by his Kurdish neighbour Hassan, for having defended the honour of his female cousin last year, when the Kurd attempted to kidnap the Armenian girl by force. The murderer frankly stated his case before the Turkish magistrate, who as a worthy follower of the prophet, found the action of Hassan as justifiable according to the law of Sheriat, and acquitted him.

(1.) As we go to press, a welcome official report states that Bashkalé has been captured by Russians, with the co-operation of Armenian volunteers and guides. For the past 500 years the Armenian appeal to the Turk for elementary justice has sounded as a voice in the wilderness. Now the victims themselves have helped to solve the problem with the arbitrament of the sword. We trust that in Bashkalé and elsewhere, no appeal for redress will ever again be made to a Turkish governor—the Armenians will look to a juster and a more civilised administration. *Ed., Ararat.*

After the Crimean War, Turkey nominally adopted the humanised civil law of the *Code Napoleon* and incorporated it into the fundamental laws of the Empire. That sounds very well indeed on paper. The truth, however, is that the legal interpretations of a Turkish judge, even under the enlightened régime of the Young Turks, are as intrinsically rotten and barbaric as they were in the thirteenth century, when the Turks emerged from the steppes of central Asia.

(5) The large and expansive plain of Abagha (in the vilayet of Van), the black soil of which is as fertile as the corn-producing soil in Russia, used to be the seat of about 300 prosperous and large Armenian villages in the 16th century. The long-drawn-out tribal feuds among the Moslem Chieftains reduced the whole plain to a mass of ruins, and the native Armenians fled. Until twenty-five years ago, it used to be wild grass-land, where neighbouring Kurds drove their flocks for pasture-grounds. After the Armenian massacres of 1894-96, the remnants of the race in Norduz (Van) emigrated to Abagha, and under the protection of Haideranti Kurdish Beys, they revived the former prosperity of the plain to its ancient glory by their own labours.

The Pan-Islamic winds, however, have of late been blowing from the young Turk Committee centres. The Armenians of Abagha, at least some hundreds of them, have been forced to quit their homes and lands, which they had built up in the course of the last twenty years. (2)

While peaceful and industrious Armenian peasants are thus being driven from their homes, Turks have been encouraging the immigration of Moslems from the Caucasus, and from the Balkan provinces lately taken from them. These unproductive and marauding bands are not being established on vacant fertile lands in Mesopotamia or Asia Minor, but are carefully trekked off towards Armenia and settled down on lands wrongfully seized from Armenians, and they are also supported by money and other State privileges.

By this high-handed action Turks expect to achieve two objects: first, to impoverish and oppress the Armenian element; secondly, to sink the numerical majority of Armenians in the provinces.

Let the unbiassed observer compare the treatment meted out to the Armenians in Abagha with that of Moslem immigrants, say at Bulanik (Bitlis), where each immigrant Moslem family received Armenian land free of charge and £T 17 to start with, etc., and draw his own conclusions.

It will be noticed that the cases recorded here have been taken only from the two provinces of Van and Bitlis; the position of Armenians in the vilayets of Erzeroum, Diarbekir, Kharput, Sivas, Trebizond, etc., is not any better; the same systems of government and the same methods of oppressing Armenians is carried out in all

(2.)—The latest news we have received from private sources seems to show that one of the Armenian Volunteer columns was advancing towards the plain of Abagha, ostensibly with the object of reaching the northern shores of Lake Van. We have no doubt that before long the column will occupy the entire plain, and enable these evicted Armenians to retain undisturbed possession of their old homes. *Ed., Ararat.*

of them. The government staff throughout the country is of the same stock and is inspired from the same sources at Constantinople. That the European War has encouraged Turks to a greater arbitrariness is evident from the fact that they have unceremoniously dismissed the two European Inspectors-General for Armenia, so as to be free from the supervising incubus of foreigners who are not of German brand.

It will be remembered that after long negotiations, Russia and Germany, as mandatories of the European Concert, forced upon Turkey in February last a scheme of Reforms for Armenia, which was to be superintended by these two European officials, nominated by the Powers and approved by the Porte. The readers of *Ararat* are aware how, after numerous delays and the whittling down of the scheme, one of these officials, Major Hoff, did actually reach Armenia with his staff, but before he could begin work, the war broke out in August, to the joy of the Turks, who forthwith gave him his passage home, placed Armenian reforms on the shelf, and thus snapped their fingers once more at the faces of the Great Powers, who were too busily occupied elsewhere.

The Press has lately been full of the details of the tragic circumstances under which Turkey has been mobilising. Armenians between the ages of 21 and 45 are compelled to join the colours and at the same time provide themselves with their own food and clothing. Those above the age of 25 have in the past paid already the annual military exemption tax of fifty piastres; now this same class of reservists are given the option of paying a fresh indemnity of £T 40. (3) It is a heavy toll, which the Turks know how to squeeze out of their helpless subjects to fill to some extent their empty war chest. They have been relying too much on the extent of human passivity and patience.

Roll of Honour.

The Tiflis papers give periodical lists of killed and wounded among the Armenian combatants of the Russian army. These are too extensive to reproduce in full in these pages, but we give partial lists to show to what extent our countrymen are bearing their share in this war of freedom against despotism.

Soldiers in hospital, wounded while fighting in the Army of the Caucasus in Turkish Armenia:—

Avedis Avedissian; Sarkis Hagopian; Lori Allaverdian; Hovhannes Aslikhanian; Sarkis Casparian; Arakel Davidoff; Manug Garabedian; Vartan Manugian; Haig Stepanian; and eight others.

(3.) Since this article was written, cases have come to our knowledge where Armenian reservists of this class have had to pay this exemption tax of £T40 twice over, on the plea that a second mobilisation created new obligations. And this was not all—for, on the entry of Turkey into the war arena, these very men who had been twice mulcted were finally forced into the ranks against the Allies. *Ed., Ararat.*

Against Germany and Austria-Hungary :—

KILLED.

Captain Keghan Stepan Tilanian.
N.C.O., Hovsep A. Der-Hovsepien.
„ Hemayag Zakarian.
„ Stepan Stepanian.
„ Gabriel Satounian.
„ Ivan P. Setinian.

WOUNDED.

Colonel Vladimir S. Ghorghanian.
Lieut.-Col. Shakir Yughashoff.
Colonel Nicola Shanshieff.
Captain Stepan Apcarian.
„ Constantin Arghutian Yergaynapazug.
„ Constantin A. Yuzbashieff.
Staff Captain Krikor G. Der-Ghazarian.
Lieut. Vladimir Schahbaronian.
„ Chanessian.
„ Ayvazoff.
„ Tigran M. Tampieff.
Bugler Sarkis A. Melik-Aghamaloff.
N.C.O., Alexandre K. Aristakessoff.
„ Argat N. Kardasheff.
„ Mikael V. Apimelikoff.
„ Lousseghen H. Haladjian.
„ Khatchadur K. Aghadjanian.
„ Alexandre N. Pirverdian.
„ Arshag Der-Haroutunian.
„ Tigran Piramoff.

The following is a further list :—

Staff Captain Pavel P. Krikorian.
„ „ Missak Markarian.
„ „ Sahag Manugian.
N.C.O., Apcar Minassian.
„ Kevork Amiraghoff.
„ Kevork Garabedian.
„ Karekin Kharajian.
„ Rosdom Kotcharian.

And others.

MISSING.

Captain Alexandre M. Roussian.
„ Ghugas S. Sarkissian.

And others.

Announcements.

THE ARMENIAN UNITED ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.

There will be an "At Home" on Sunday, January 17th, from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m., at the Elysée Hall, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W., being the nearest Sunday to the Armenian Christmas (January 19th).

NOTICE.

In accordance with Rule 22 of the Rules of the Association, the Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 30th, 1915, at the Elysée Hall, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.

The Meeting will begin at 3.30 p.m. punctually.

Only Members of the Association who have paid their subscriptions in full for the year 1914, or for the year 1915 in the case of new Members, will be entitled to attend this Meeting and to vote.

The ordinary business before the Meeting will be :—

- (i) To receive the report of the President for the year 1914, together with a statement of accounts ;
- (ii) to elect three members to serve on the General Council in place of three of the oldest members, who will retire in accordance with the Association's Rule 17. Retiring members of the General Council can offer themselves for re-election.

Any special questions or proposals to be brought before this Meeting by the General Council, or by any members, must be in conformity with Rules 23 or 24 of the Rules of the Association.

Tea will be provided during the Meeting.

By order of the General Council,

M. K. GUDENIAN,
Hon. Secretary.

ARMENIAN YOUNG MEN'S CLUB.

It is a pleasure to bring to the notice of our readers this Club, which holds its debates and meetings at the West Didsbury Public Hall, Manchester.

The Hon. President of the Club is Mr. Mark Bakirgian, and the Executive Committee consists of Messrs. Gregory Agopian, A. E. Manissadjian, M. B. Baltaian, B. Chamourian, H. Markarian, S. Agopian and L. N. Odabashian.

The Winter Session began on November 8th with an Address by the Right Rev. Archbishop K. Utudjian, and there have been four other meetings and debates during November and December. The items of the programme for the remainder of the Session are as follows :

Jan. 10.—Sunday, 3.15 p.m. *Debate*, "Will Armenian Autonomy be beneficial to the Nation?"

B. Jenazian, Esq., aff.

A. E. Manissadjian, Esq., neg.

Jan. 17.—Sunday, 3.0 p.m. *Social Gathering*, for members only.

Jan. 31.—Sunday, 3.15 p.m. *Debate*, "Is it possible for Powers to settle their disputes by Arbitration?"

D. Gulbenkian, Esq., aff.

S. Damadian, Esq., neg.

Feb. 14.—Sunday, 3.0 p.m. *Members' Meeting*.

Feb. 21.—Sunday, 3.30 p.m. *Address*, by T. Alinack, Esq.

Mar. 14.—Sunday, 3.15 p.m. *Debate*, "Are the Armenians patriotic?"

L. Tufenkjian, Esq., aff.

A. Kalpakdjian, Esq., neg.

Mar. 21.—Sunday, 3.0 p.m. *Members' Meeting*.

Apr. 4.—Sunday, 3.15 p.m. *Debate*, "Is militarism consistent with true civilisation?"

M. A. Arabian, Esq., aff.

K. Funduklian, Esq., neg.

Apr. 18.—Sunday, 3.0 p.m. *Members' Meeting*.

The end of the Winter Session is to be followed by a Picnic in the Summer; and, in addition, the members of the Club have their own Gatherings on Sunday afternoons at the Hall, and their Football Team plays regularly on Saturday afternoons.

All Armenians are cordially invited, *free*; but those desirous of encouraging the Club may pay a yearly subscription.

Literary Section.

ARMENIA: HER PEOPLE AND HISTORY.

(NOTE.—We reproduce below, with some additions of historical interest, a paper read by Mr. Safrastian on November 11th, at the London School of Economics and Political Science, before the Anthropological Club of the University of London.

The second portion of the paper, which will appear in our next issue, deals mainly with the customs and prejudices of the people, bearing on child-birth, marriage, funerals, etc.; and also, generally, with the present conditions in Armenia.—*Ed. Ararat.*)

I.

The origin of the Armenian race, like that of many others whose countries lie on the highway of the great human migrations, is shrouded in the mists of prehistoric times. Though the data available through

cuneiform inscriptions discovered in different parts of Armenia, Assyria and Persia throw some light on the story of the proto-Armenians, yet there seem to be many gaps which so far have not been filled. Linking together all such data and the information which can be obtained from a variety of sources—from our own pre-Christian legends and traditions; from our historians of the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries, as well as from the old Greek and Roman historians—it is generally presumed that at the dawn of history, modern Armenia was inhabited by a race of Semitic origin, which called themselves *Khaldians* (not to be confounded with Chaldeans), from the name of their chief-god Khaldiis. This race is said to be akin to the Assyrians if practically it is not the same.

These Khaldians had their capital at the site occupied by modern Van, and now and again they ruled over the country of Uruartu. For about two centuries, during the eleventh and tenth B.C., they fought against the powerful Assyrian Empire and were able to maintain their independence during that period.

In the middle of the seventh century, B.C., however, the highlands of Armenia were overrun by an Indo-European race, a people coming originally from south-eastern Europe; according to Herodotus, it may have been either from Thessaly or from Thrace, and this migratory horde, passing through Phrygia, spread itself over the country towards Mt. Ararat. These Indo-European invaders, bearing apparently all the physical and ethnical characteristics of the greater branch, subjugated the native Khaldians of Semitic origin, and freely mixed with them.

In the confusion of races and the military conquests of the two following centuries, Indo-European Armenians may have formed a part of the great confederation of Hittites, though racially quite distinct from them. Perhaps it is this intermingling of the two distinct types of races which has been the main factor in differentiating the two main types of modern Armenians; the one which bears traces of the Semitic stock has a swarthy complexion, is round-headed and dark-haired, with prominent cheek-bones; the other, presumably the larger part, of Indo-European stock, has brown hair and eyes, is long-headed and hook-nosed. The racial purity and a definite type of physical characteristics seem to have been further confused by the subsequent social and political circumstances through which the country has passed.

After a spell of political unity of all Armenia under Tigranes II (90–55 B.C.), our greatest king, Armenian power was at length shattered in its continuous struggle against the Roman Empire, when the latter was at its height. The adoption of Christianity as the religion of the State, early in the fourth century, revolutionised the social and spiritual conditions of the nation, by purifying family life and morals, and fundamentally changing its general outlook. Religious wars in the fifth and sixth centuries against Persia, which attempted to force upon us the Zoroastrian religion, greatly weakened Armenia,

which became in the following centuries the battle-ground between Persia and the Byzantine Empire; and later on, between the latter and the Saracens who, emerging from the south in the seventh century, flooded Western Asia with their hordes.

Unfortunately, the geographical configuration of the country hardly lends itself to any political unity, or combined action of all its component parts. On ethnological and historical bases, the Armenian boundaries extended, in historical times, from the southern boundaries of the Caspian and Azerbaijan to the head waters of the Tigris, and in a circular line from the Kur valley and Georgia to the Upper Euphrates and Asia Minor. This area of about 200,000 square miles of tableland (which has greatly varied in extent according to political circumstances that have existed at the time) is broken up by ranges of mountains intersected by long and flat valleys through which flow rivers north and south, with great differences of climatic conditions and social environment. It seems, therefore, not unnatural that these invincible factors should leave their imprint throughout the long course of our history. Local interests and peculiarities have frequently prevailed where larger interests of the nation required common action against common enemies. In the eighth century, there were not less than one hundred and fifty semi-independent princes owing nominal allegiance to the Bagratid dynasty, which had its capital at Ani, at the foot of Mount Ararat.

The power of the central authority, however, was often upheld by such principalities in the event of a great national emergency; for instance, on the first appearance of Saracens in Armenia, impelled no doubt by strong religious motives. But when the Saracens subdued the country and established a control over all, particularist tendencies had their own way again.

From the records of our historians dating from the fourth century, it is possible to draw a sketch of the social organisation of semi-independent Armenia before the appearance of the Turk.

The semi-independent principalities formed, as a rule, strong military aristocracies. The Head of the family had large powers over every member of the household. They lived in a patriarchal manner, all under the single roof; very often the family represented three or four generations of sons and grandsons, as it was not customary for married sons of the family to leave the father's household and to start new homes of their own. The younger generations invariably rendered respect and unconditional obedience to the elders; and could not move about, or, for instance, sit down in the presence of an elder member of the family without his permission being first obtained. Marriages were arranged between the parents of the parties concerned, commonly between the fathers, on the suggestion of the mothers, without any regard for the wishes of the couple who were most interested in the transaction.

There is some historical evidence to presume that in matters of inheritance, the paterfamilias had full power to dispose of his estate at his death. The law of primogeniture was the customary law which

was prevalent among the princely families, with the view, of course, of keeping these large family estates intact. But among the rest of the people, children were treated as heirs on a more or less equal footing. Daughters who were going to marry, and therefore to leave the father's household, received their fair share of inheritance in the form of a dowry.

Under the influence of Christianity, the system of slavery was gradually replaced by some kind of a feudal system of land tenure. The tillers of the soil and other classes of labourers were indeed vassals to their lords and masters and subject to feudal service. They were armed and equipped against foreign enemies and, later, against Moslem invaders; very often, too, against each other, when there was a local quarrel. The Head or Prince of the clan (*nakharrar* in Armenian) recruited a body of yeomanry to help the King when called upon to do so—at least such of the Princes whose domains had interests identical with those of the central authority.

The country, though often overrun by enemies, was prosperous and civilised according to the standard of those ages. The peaks and ridges of mountains and easily tenable positions throughout the land were decked with monasteries, churches, castles and mansions, wherein arts and crafts, literature and learning were the most favourite occupations. During the last few years, excavations have been made by Russian and Armenian archaeologists at Ani, the capital of the Bagratid dynasty, which was completely destroyed by Seljuks in 971. Ruins of churches and houses have been brought to light, as well as forks, spoons and household utensils, which tend to show the degree of civilisation which flourished in our country in the tenth century.

Little is known of the position of women under independent Armenia. That they were considered to be on an equal footing with the rest of the family under the roof of the paterfamilias, there would seem to be little doubt. Eghishé, our great historian of the religious war, graphically describes how the women helped their men to fight in 451 A.D. against Persians, who attempted to force upon our country the worship of the Sun. He says that women of the nobility, who were accustomed to every comfort and luxury, divested themselves of their jewellery and ornaments and, walking at the side of their men, exhorted and encouraged them to war for the love of Christ and for the freedom of their homes. He also records that the widows of the generals, such as St. Vartan, who were killed in the battle, as well as the wives of those who were treacherously detained by the Persians, bore their hardships with exemplary fortitude. The women of that period, we are informed, managed their households, brought up their children in the best traditions of their ancestors, while at the same time they saved all they could for the support of those of their compatriots who were poor and helpless.

Again in the ninth century, Queen Askkhen, performed many benevolent acts to encourage her husband, King Aschot, the Merciful, towards the establishment of convents and institutions for educational and charitable purposes; other women, too, are mentioned for their

devotion to benevolence, and to the building of churches and the endowing of monasteries, etc. These facts are sufficient to show that Armenian women in the early Middle Ages had a distinct standing in the society of the day.

As they fought against the Romans before and after the dawn of the Christian era, so from the beginning of the fourth century onwards (a period which marks the official recognition of Christianity), our people, led by their kings and princes and separated from the Christian world by land and sea, have fought, sometimes in combination but oftener unaided, against Persians, Greeks, Saracens, Mongols, and others, with alternate defeats and victories.

Throughout those ten centuries of almost uninterrupted warfare against heavy odds, surrounded always by hostile Moslem invaders, the last remnants of the fighting aristocracy were compelled to retire into the mountain fastnesses of Cilicia, since then called *Lesser Armenia*. There, in the ranges of the Taurus Mountains, was founded, at the end of the eleventh century, the fourth and the last Armenian dynasty under Prince Rupen. The leaderless populations of the Armenian valleys and plains emigrated in great numbers to distant lands, finding their way even as far as Transylvania, where they felt they could find rest and security for their lives and those of their belongings. Those who remained behind in their native land—and they formed the greater majority—gradually lost their fighting quality and that spirit of independence which had been their inheritance from times immemorial. And no wonder, since they were being subjected to an intolerable servitude under the heel of barbaric Moslem hordes. Of this we shall speak later.

The assistance rendered by Armenians to the Crusaders coming from the West redoubled against them the fury of the Moslems, who ruthlessly revenged themselves on the Armenians when the attempt of Europe to save Jerusalem finally collapsed.

The later kings of the Rupenian dynasty, who practically identified themselves with the House of the Latin Lusignans of Cyprus, appealed time and again to European sovereigns for support to fight against the increasing pressure which the Mamelukes were exerting upon Christendom in the East. Levon (Leo) VI, the last king of this Armeno-Lusignan line, repaired to Paris to implore King Charles VI of France to help him in restoring the Kingdom of Armenia in the East. At that time England and France were still embroiled in the Hundred Years' War, and under the circumstances no help could be expected from Europe. And with the death of Levon VI in 1395 in Paris, the last flicker of our political power was extinguished.

Thus, bereft of all aid from the outside world, and already weakened by ceaseless fighting, our forefathers of five centuries ago had no means whatever of offering any effective resistance to the mighty onrush of the Turks who, in their advance westwards, pulled down in irretrievable ruin the Byzantine Empire, and surged up time and again before the very walls of Vienna.

All aspects of national life among Armenians forcibly underwent a fundamental change for the worse under the Turkish yoke. A dreary

night of darkness and perversion has settled on us ever since that time. Turkish rule has, alas! been a demoralising factor over a bright and industrious race, and the iron has entered into the very depths of its national soul.

As in the earlier centuries of the Christian era, the adoption of Christianity and Christian morals had their effect in quickening the spiritual and social consciousness of our race, and in furnishing it at the same time with a powerful impetus towards improvement in physical surroundings, so Moslem domination, with its baleful influences, has breathed its withering miasma of corruption, outwardly at least, over the social and physical conditions of our people.

A. S. SAFRASTIAN.

(To be continued.)

Editorial Notes.

There is many a pitfall in the path of an Editor, and his lot is not always a happy one. In last month's issue, two points require clearing up.

(i) To the excellent rendering of the poem, *The Lake of Van*, on page 174, there was attached an editorial note that the lines were "written after reading an English translation of Raffi's thoughts in connection with this beautiful lake." The word "thoughts" should have been "poem," and we gladly make the correction in response to the wishes of the writer, who says "the lines on *The Lake of Van*, published in your last issue, were a translation of, and not merely suggested by, Raffi's poem of the same name."

(ii) The second point refers to the article on pp. 176-179, signed *Zabelle Catherine Boyajian*, regarding some statements of which we have received letters of protest. Though we are always ready to give publicity to questions affecting Armenia from more than one point of view, we are not in favour of publishing letters of a polemical character; so in this case we have taken the trouble to verify the facts and to present these only to our readers.

The statement to which the chief objection has been taken—"my father acted for fifteen years as British Vice-Consul at Diarbekir and was the only Armenian to whom the British Government has ever entrusted a Vice-Consulate in Armenia"—assails directly the "official" status of our previous contributor, to whose article this is a reply, and certainly denies his connection with a consulate. We have satisfied ourselves from a reference to Blue Books published by the British Government that our previous contributor (an Armenian) was not only an "official," but at the same time an acting British Vice-Consul.

Another matter for notice is that the original contributor related an incident connected with an agrarian dispute which occurred in 1911, the date being specified. The article under notice refers to the opinions based on the above incident as "already seven or eight years old."

In justice to our original contributor, we draw attention to these obvious discrepancies affecting facts. Other minor points of difference we pass over.

DO BUSINESS WITH PERSIA! 1,000 things are wanted!

ADVERTISE YOUR GOODS IN PERSIAN PAPERS.

INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING AND INFORMATION BUREAU, AND NEWS AGENCY FOR PERSIA AND THE CAUCASUS.

Questions on all subjects relating to Persia and the Caucasus promptly answered and businesses arranged.

Advertisements in all Persian and Caucasian newspapers published in all required languages.

Agents at Tabriz for the sale of "Ararat."

Mihran BAGHDASARIAN, Manager,

TABRIZ, PERSIA.

N.B.—Please register your letters.

The Asiatic Review.—Noted for its articles on Eastern Politics, Finance, Literature and Art. Every six weeks, 2s. 6d. net. Annual subscription, £1 post free. Editorial Offices, Westminster Chambers, 3, Victoria Street, S.W.

Travel and Politics in Armenia.—By NOEL BUXTON, M.P., and the Rev. HAROLD BUXTON. With an Introduction by Viscount BRYCE, and a Contribution on ARMENIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, by ARAM RAFFI. (*Smith, Elder.*) 5s. net.

* * * These chapters form a graphic account of recent travels in Russian and Turkish Armenia. The political reflections which they contain are enhanced by experience gained from many previous journeys in the Turkish Empire. They have exceptional value at a moment when that country is the subject of diplomatic action by all the Great Powers.

The Moslem World.—A quarterly review of current events, literature, and thought among Mohammedans, and the progress of Christian Missions in Moslem lands.

"The Moslem World" is a Christian quarterly, and has always been pro-Armenian.

Edited by Dr. Samuel M. Zwemer, of Cairo.

London: Christian Literature Society for India, 35, John Street, Bedford Row, W.C.

1s. per copy, or 4s. per annum, post free.

ORIENTAL RESTAURANT.

Breakfasts, Dinners, Teas, Etc.

"Stamboul" Cigarettes and Tobacco. Turkish Coffee a Speciality. POPULAR PRICES.

234, Shaftesbury Avenue, New Oxford Street, W.

Advertisements for "Ararat" will be received by the Hon. Secretary, The Armenian United Association of London, 44, Queen's Rd., Bayswater, London, W.

Terms:—Full page £1 per insertion.

Half page 10/6 "

Quarter page 5/6 "

One-eighth of page, or less 3/- "

The Armenian United Association of London.

FOUNDED 1898. RECONSTRUCTED 1913.

General Council:

G. M. GREGORY, Lieut.-Col., V.D., *President.*

Madame RAFFI, } *Vice-Presidents.*

J. G. JOAKIM, }

A. P. HACOBIAN, *Hon. Treasurer.*

J. A. CALANTAR, M.D., *Hon. Asst. Treas.*

M. BALIAN.

H. N. MOSDITCHIAN.

M. K. GUDENIAN, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

S. P. STEPHENS.

This Association has been founded with the double object of (1) drawing together all Armenians in the British capital, bringing them into touch with the British public, and thus establishing a closer sympathy between the two nations; and (2) focussing in the centre of the civilised world the many questions, both social and national, which affect Armenia and the Armenians.

With the above objects in view, the Association is directing its energies to—

- (1) The establishment of a permanent habitation in London, which will embrace a hall for meetings, a reading-room and a library.
- (2) The organisation of social and literary gatherings.
- (3) The relief and education of Armenian orphans rendered destitute through chronic misrule in Armenia.
- (4) Watching the trend of political affairs affecting Armenia, and doing the utmost by pacific means towards the amelioration of the country and the people through (a) a Standing Committee, and by (b) the publication of literature.
- (5) The gradual raising of a fund for the establishment of an Armenian Church in London.

Membership is open to Armenians of both sexes.

Subscription:—Annual, 10/-; entrance fee, 5/-. Life Members, 5 guineas.

Sympathisers and friends of other nationalities are eligible for election as Hon. Members, but they have no voice in the management, and pay no subscriptions.

It will be evident that the above nominal subscription is just sufficient for the bare social functions of the Association. The more important functions are dependent for their success on the liberality of sympathisers, and donations are earnestly requested for the above national objects from those who are in a position to contribute. The response since the reorganisation of the Association has been very encouraging, but much more is needed to place the Association on a secure basis for prosecuting the work outlined above.

Communications affecting Membership, or any of the objects of the Association, should be addressed to

THE HON. SECRETARY,
44, Queen's Road,
Bayswater, London, W.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PERIODICALS CONNECTED WITH ARMENIA.

Pro Armenia.—An organ in support of reforms in Armenia and in Turkey. Annual subscription, 10 francs. 31, Villa d'Alesia, Paris XIV^e.

The Friend of Armenia—Published quarterly. Annual subscription, 1s. 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, MAPS, &c.

Armenia.—Its People, Sufferings and Demands. The British Armenia Committee, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London. 1d.

The Truth about Armenia. by EMILY J. ROBINSON. 1d., by post 1½d. One doz. copies, 1s., or 7/6 for 100 copies, post free. Apply to Miss Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W.

Map of Turkish Armenia.—Enlarged edition of the Map appearing in this periodical, on cloth to fold, in cover, 1s. per copy. Apply to Assistant Secretary, The Armenian United Association, 44, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W.

The Church of Armenia—Her History, Doctrine, Rule, Discipline, Liturgy, Literature, and Existing Condition, by Mgr. Malachia Ormanian, translated by G. Marcar Gregory, V.D., 5s. net (postage 4d.). Apply to the translator, 36, Gunterstone Road, West Kensington, London, W.

Raffi's Works—Samuel, 8s.; Davit Beg, 8s.; Kaitzer I and II, 12s.; Khent, Djalaleddin, 5s.; Khamsai Meliks, 5s.; Persia, 5s.; Khachakogh, 5s.; Salbi, 8s.; Tachkahajk, 3s.; Zahrumar, 5s. Apply Mrs. Raffi, 32, Richmond Gardens, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

The People of Armenia.—A lecture delivered in Paris by Archag Tchobanian, translated into English by G. Marcar Gregory. Published by J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London, 1s. 6d. net. Now ready. Copies in any number can also be had through the Assistant Secretary, Armenian United Association, 44, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W.

The Causes of the International European War, by Ch. Guezouni. The International Scientific Association, London, 1s. net. Copies can be had from the Assistant Secretary, The Armenian United Association, 44, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W.